

A
BOOKE
OF MERRIE
RIDDLES.

Very meete and delight-
full for youth to try
their wits.



LONDON.

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are to bee sold at his shoppe in
Cheapside at the signe of the
Bible. 1631.





DIVERS PRETTIE
RIDDLES, WITH
OTHER DARKE
SENTENCES.

Question.



What Iudge on the earth did giue
the greatest Sentence, when hee
did liue ?

Solution.

Pilate, when he pronounced Sentence
of condemnation against Christ Iesus.

Q. A maid there was that married a man,
By whom was many children gotten :
Yet all they died and went away,
Before the mother was begotten.

Sol. it was Eue and her children, who all
died ere she was begotten, for she was nei-
ther borne, nor begotten but created.

Q. What bloody Tyrant was that wight
That with a murdering blow,
The fourth part of the earth did slay,
Which thou canst tell I crowe :

Sol. Cain in slaying of his brother Abel.

Q. Soule is my fault that feeds me full,
To gorge one mothers bowels still:
I went abroad to seeke my fire,
And my wines sonne I doe desire:
Such a one the man must be,
As is the sonne of man to me.

Sol. Ioseph went to seeke Christ, whom
hee found in the Temple preaching a-
mongst those of the Synagogue.

Q. What is it that God commanded to
be done, and was not done, and yet God
was well pleased?

Sol. The sacrificing of Isaac.

Q. In what place crew the Cock so lowd,
That all men heard it out of doubt.

Sol. In the Arke of Noah.

Q. Judge of me by perfect skill,
My youth restored by casting bill.

Sol. An Eagle.

Q. When I am old, I cast my skinne,
Whereby I doe come young againe.

Sol. A Snayle.

Q. White I am and blacke withall,
I haue eyes and yet am blind:
Gaine and losse not without braule,
I doe procure as you shall find.

Sol. Dice.

of Riddles.

Q. I wound the heart and please the eye,
Tell me what I am by and by.

Sol. Beauty.

Q. I am within as white as snow,
Without as Greene as herbs that grow:
I am higher then a house,
And yet am lesser then a House.

Sol. A Walnut hanging one a tree.

Q. What Mother a child doth beget,
And she of it is gotten againe:
Which although strange it seemed to bee
Yet it is true I tell you plaine.

Sol. Water turning to Ice, and Ice a-
gaine turning to water.

Q. 'Tis black without, and black within
And hath foure corners as I win.

Sol. A dry tulse,

Q. Oe dipus that whilome hast resolved
a greater doubt,
Unfold this Riddle vnto me which now I
shall put out:

When I did live then was I dumbe, and
yeeld no harmony:

But being dead I doe affoord most pleasant
melody.

Sol. Any musicall instrument that is made
of wood.

Q. Yet once againe I meane to proue thy
skill

The Booke

skill but a iest :

Which if thou dost resolve to me thou sett
my mind at rest :

Whether was man created first, befoze the
beard, or els,

The beard before the man : that show, and
thou shalt win the bels

fol: All creatures were created befoze man
in their kinde :

And so was eke the bearded Goate, as we
in bookes doe finde.

Q. in at a window when I doe looke,
(Beat not your braine long about this)

Then in the house about I goe,
How tell me quickly what it is?

fol: The shining of the Sunne.

Q: there dwels foure sisters near this town
in favour like, and like in gowne :

When they run for a prize to win,
All at once they doe begin :

One runnes as fast as doth the other,
Yet cannot overtake each other,

fol. The foure winds of a mill .

Q. When it through the wood doth goe,
it toucheth every thing below,

fol. it is the Snow.

Q. When it doth goe through the wood,
it toucheth neuer a twig forsooth.

fol. A

sol. A penny in a mans purse,

Q. What is it that more noses hath
Within the house made of plate :

sol. The hangers where the Pot hooks
hang vpon.

Q. I am foule to be looked vnto,

Yet many seeke me so2 to win :

Not so2 my beauty no2 my skin,

But so2 my wealth and force to know :

Hard is my meat whereby I liue,

Yet I bzing men to dainty fare;

if I were not, then Ale-knights should,

To sing this song not be so bold,

Putmegs, Ginger, Cinamon, and Cloues,

They gaue vs this iolly red nose.

The foure parts of the earth I shew,

The time and howers as they doe goe :

As needfull am I to mankind,

As any thing that they can find,

Many doe take me so2 their guide,

Who otherwise would runne aside.

sol. 'tis a Loadestone, so2 without it no
Pilot were able to guide a ship in the O-
cean Seas.

Q. I am a chiefe strength of the Land,

When vpon foure pillars I stand :

And if these foure should faile indeed,

Then should I findet wo moze at need.

And the fifth shall not stand aside:
 Foure lights I haue to be my guide,
 For tis more bright then the Sunne,
 And doth remaine when life is done :
 And though one corp three heads do wear
 No monster yet it is I sweare,
 Unknit this knot, and tell to me,
 At leasure fir what I might bee.

sol A horseman being on horseback, who
 hath 4 eyes with those of his horse, and the
 fifth is his reasonable soule whereby he is
 chiefly guided, no2 is not subiect vnto death

Q. Sixe hairees did come within a plain,
 whom hounds had started out the nest:
 Hill vp hill downe they runne amaine,
 till they were weary, and then did rest:
 They caught him once and scapt again,
 more eager went they then before:
 And toke moze paine then (as I win)
 to beare away the game and more.

The hounds and hunters all were one,
 each liked his game and toke his prey:
 But when their sport was past & done,
 they left their hairees, and came away,
 sol. Tis a match at bowles played in a
 bowling Alley.

Q. Ten mens leugth, & ten mens strength,
 and ten men cannot reare it.

of Riddles,

sol: A cable rope which ten men cannot
breake by force.

Q. A man I was, a man I am,
But yet as tame as any Lambe :
Though I am blind the way I shew
Which all men that see mee must goe:
And to put your mind out of doubt,
Eight legs I haue that beare about,
My burthen more then any hath,
Vnlesse he be in my estate.

In time therfore doe learne of me,
As I before haue done of thee.
if he had knowne that brought our woe,
Vntred had vpon his foe,
But for his fault we subiect be,
To this estate which you see me :
I am that which you least desire,
But yet y^e you should most require.
Tesse what I am (good sir) therfore,
Before you doe knocke at my dore.

sol. It is a dead man and those foure that
doo carry him to his graue, which Adam
our first parent, who brought death into
the world.

Q. In open field I cannot lye,
And yet may rest quietly,
Within a bore of Tuory.

sol. It is a Feather in a windy day.

Q. I am as little as a mt, and

The Booke

and serues the King at enery bitt.

sol. Salt :

Q: Who weares his end about his middle
Once in his time ? tel me this riddle :

sol : A theefe whose armes are tied with
the halter, wherewith he shall be executed :

Q: My flesh and skinne is red,
But white is all my heart,
Where round about a wall is set,
Beaten with enery dart :

sol: It is a Cherry and Cherry Stone :

Q: Ponder it is and here I haue it,
sol: a mans breath oz other liuing creatures

Q: What wight is he that others feed,
and yet himselfe both dye for need ?

sol: It is a Preacher instructing others, &
doth quite contrary to his owne doctrine, &
by this meanes flarveth his owne soule :

Q: Tell me good sir, whom I might be,
a father I had but mother none :

Pet many a mother haue had of me,
who all to earth with me are gone

sol: Our first parent Eve, who had no mo-
ther, & no other father but God almighty :

Q: What is most like a horse,
(Wides a Mare he meanes)

That feedeth vpon hay and grasse,
vpon pease, and vpon beanes :

sol: it

of Riddles.

sol: it is a Gelding.

Q: My husband giues two gownes to me
of sundry colours every yeare:

Greene is the one which I doe weare,
so long till it be all thready bare:

White is the other, as the Sunne,
of many peeccs vp and downe:

Pet like to that few workmen can
denise to make another gowne.

The wiser sort wherein they dose
doe call me soole vpon a toy,

But pet of me they take a note,
that death is past when I do toy.

sol: it is a Mulberry tree, greene in the
Summer, and white with snow in the win-
ter, who in latine is called MORUS, which
signifieth in Greeke, a soole, that tree is of
this nature, that it will not cast any buds
before all other trees haue, whereby we cer-
tainely know when she begins to bud; that
the cold and winter is altogether past, soz
that present season.

Q. A ship there driues vpon the tide,
that sailes doth beare she hath no mast,
But one oare she hath on each side,
her sailes the snow in whitenesse passe
in her front weares two lanthorns bright
but when she is vpon point to fall
Then lead an eare soz great delight of

of Riddles.

of musicke she affords to all.

sol: it is a swan, who being nere her death
sings most sweetly: as Authoꝝ doe record.

Q. Round I am yet cannot rest.

When I am spited of the best.

sol. A tennis ball when two good players
play together.

Q. What man is he of wit so base,
That wears both his eyes in a case
For feare of hurting them it is,
And I doe find it not amisse.

sol. it is he that cannot see well without
Spectacles, and doth carry them about him
in a case for feare of breaking them.

Q. My prey I seek the fields & weeds about,
& have more teeth then beasts within y^e land
and whensoever my game I haue found out
then safe I bring it to my masters hand
Upon my back the dære he layes,
and there doth kill one, sometimes more:
He shuts me vp and goes his wayes,
better contented then before.

sol It is a Combe, and a louse killed vp
on the backe of it.

Q. A tree there is th^t it boughes doth beare
in number five as I doe know:
No equall lenght they neuer were,
and on their tops doe hoznes grow:

yet they are tied about with gold,
 except the longest without doubt :
 Which for vse sake might be controld,
 of it with gold were hoopt about.

sol It is ones hand, and his fingers that are
 ful of golden rings the midlemost excepted
 because a ring doth not fit that finger.

Q I was not, I am not, & I shall not be,
 yet I doe walke as men may see :

I runne and speake to get a see,
 though I am not in any degree.

sol: It is a man whose surname was Not

Q Deafe I am and cannot heare,
 and when I worke I feele no paine :

Some doe curse me, some speake me faire,
 though well I know it is in vaine.

sol: Dice and dicers.

Q In what place of the earth
 doth theskie seeme to be

No larger then a yard or twaine?
 which I pray thee tell mee.

sol: In the bottome of a well.

Q A thing that I take that I lose,
 yet nothing to my moe,
 And that I take not, that I keepe,
 yet would it faine forgoe.

sol. He that is all lowlie, those lice which
 he takes, throwes them away, & those that
 he

he cannot take, keeps them still, and yet
would faine be rid of them.

Q. What thing is onely vpon this earth
not subiect vnto feare :

Ans. Doth not weigh the threatnings,
of Tyrants pin or haire ?

sol. it is a good Conscience.

Q. What doth with his roote vpwards
grow :

And downward with his head doth shew ?
sol. it is an iciesickle.

Q. What is lesse then a mouse,
and hath more windowes then a house ?

sol. it is a Spider in the midst of his web
or else a thimble.

Q. I do walke, yet I do not goe,
I doo drinke yet no thirst slacke :
I doe eate yet do not see,
I doe worke yet no worke make.

sol. it is a man that dreames, who in his
dreame seemes to doo all these things, yet
indeed doth none of them.

Q. as bitter as gall,
as sweet as milke,
as high as hall, and hard withall.

sol. it is a walnut vpon a tree.

Q. I am no fish nor flesh nor boyle,
Yet when I am bozne, I make a noyse

sol.

of Riddles.

sol. a Fart or else Thunder.

Q. When we by the way do goe,
Upon our shoulders we beare our way:
if we were not, then many should be,
Wet to the skin in a rayny day.

sol. Masons, Tilers, and men of such like
occupation, carrying ladders vpon their
shoulders to build and tile houses.

Q. M and I made great mone,
When C vpon C was left alone.

sol. Mary and Iohn made great mone,
When Christ vpon Crosse was left alone.

Q. when I to the wood do goe,
Then my head homewards I doe shew

sol. it is an are,

Q. in me are many shining lights,

sol. it is a burning candle.

Q. in the last minute of my age,
I doe waxe young againe:
And haue so still continued,
Since worlde did first begin.

sol. it is the Moone.

Q. I doe owe most, yet nothing pay,
Euell I am, and the worst I say,

sol. ingratitude, which Murther recel-
leth good turnes and payeth vengeance.

Q. what men are those that backwarde
gaine
Their small liuing not without pain. so

Sol, Gardiners and Kope-makers.

Q. Old I am when I was bozne,
And when I am hatcht take heed of me:
Or else thou mayest sone be forlozne,
If thou doest nothing looke to thee.

Sol. The grudge of a secret enemy, long con-
ceined in mind ere it be put in execution.

Q. Witty pittty within the wall,
And hittty pittty without the wall:
If you touch hittty my toy,
Witty pittty will bite the boy.

Sol. It is a Rettle.

Q. Chinke clanke vnder a banke,
Ten aboue foure and nexte the stanke.

Sol. A Maid milking of a Cow.

Q. Trip trap in a gap,
As many sietes as a hundred sharpe.

Sol. It is hayle when it falls.

Q. A wicked father did beget,
A daughter fit vnto his hand:
What such good children she did get,
What are the p[ro]p[er]s of euery land.

Sol. The Diuell begot sinne, and for sinne
procured good lawes, which are the stayes
of all governments.

Q. Good speed faire Ladies,
I am sent I cannot tell to whom,
And I doe bring I cannot tell what,
I count her wise that tels me that.

Sol

of Riddles.

sol. A Louer sent to his Loue a Messenger
to put her in mind of promise as to come
vnto him, and she sent back this answere
vnto him.

Tell thy Master in my name,

When trees are turnd and wells be dry,
And dead from quicke, then come will I :

sol. Meaning at midnight, when fire-
brands should bee turned vppwards, and
the pots should be empty, and the fire ra-
ked vp with the cold ashes, then she would
come.

Q. I know a child borne by my mother,
naturall borne as other children be :

That is neither my sister nor my brother,
answer me shortly what is he?

sol. It is a person that speaketh the word: for
he is neither brother nor sister to himselfe

Q. I haue a Smith without a hand,
He worke the worke that no man can :
He serues our God, and doth man ease,
Without any fire in his furnace

sol: it is a Bee that makes honey and waxe

Q: What is it that in the morning,
vpon foure legges doth goe :

And about none it standeth fast,
vpon two and no more ?

In the euening againe it hath,

The Booke.

no lesser than thre in foye :

Which tell me Ser art thou not he,
whom I doe take thee for?

Sol: it is a man: for when he is a childe,
then doth he creep vpon hands and feet, but
when he is a man then he standeth straight
vpon two legges, but when he is old and de-
crepit, besides his legs then he vseth a staffe
to support, his body. This riddle gaue
Sphinx, a serpent, to all the passengers that
went by her Den: and those that could not
resolue it, them she deuored : and so Oedi-
pus at last passing by and hauing resolued
the doubt, did ridde his countrey of this Di-
uell incorporate.

Q as round as a hope I am,
most part when it is day:
But being night, then am I long,
as any Snake I say

Sol. it is a womans girdle which she
weares about her middle

Q I eate my Purse that seeds mee fall,
Consume my Mother that beares me still
And I am such an vthankfull wight,
That when I die and losse my sight,
I make all blind that doe delight

Sol. The Sunne

Q. I am cald by name of man,

Yet am as little as the House,
When winter comes I lone to be,
With my red gorget nere the house.

sol. A bird called Robin-Red-breast

Q. although my body little is,
yet I doe please the hearers eare:
if I were tame it were not amisse,
Then I should live in lesser feare

sol. The Nightingale

Q. What is it more eyes both weare,
then soz y men within the land:
Which glister as the Chrissall cleare,
against the Sunne when they doe stand

sol. a Peacocks taile.

Q. When I doe goe to the waters side,
at home I leaue my heart behind,
Tell me what I am without pride,
if it by any meanes you finde

sol. it is a pillow-beare

Q. My head is round, my body small,
And I hold that that saours all.

sol. a Salt seller and Salt.

Q. Head and eye I am onely,
What I may be tell me.

Sol. A button of Copper or mettall

Q. A bird vpon the house I saw,
fire legges it had, yet but one taile:
Two heads besides more then a Daw,

The Booke

name me this bird, and win the ale.

sol: A Wearneshaw had taken a Frogge,
and brought it to her young ones in the
nest, made vpon the top of an house:

Q: All my body belly is,
And lesser then it, my mouth is not:
I doe containe what makes me mad,
What I am fit, now tell me that,

sol, A malsacke full of malt wherewith
Strong drinke is brewed:

Q My belly is bigger then all the rest,
Wherein men vse to put the best,
Broad is my fore, short is my necke,
I fill you vse me then feare a checke,

sol, A bottle of glasse:

Q. My coate is greene and I can prate,
Of diuers things about my grate,
In such a prison I am set,
That hath more leape holes then a net,

sol, A Parret in a cage of wyer:

Q, I doe resem le many a weight,
Yet I keepe me out of their sight:
And do not once come where they be,
Yet eury day they may see me.

sol, A bell toling to a Sermon,

Q, What mil is that that hath two wings
which flie about without the wind?

A greasie Miller looks to all things,
whiles

of Riddles,

Whiles it doth turne and doth not grind?

sol. It is a Jacke, and the greaſie Miller
is the Cooke.

Q. It is no bigger then a plumme,
and yet it ſerues the King
from towne to towne.

sol. It is an eye.

Q. It was not, noꝝ is not,
noꝝ neuer will be
hold vp your hand
and you ſhall ſee.

sol. It is the little finger, that was not,
noꝝ is not, noꝝ will it bee ſo great as the
reſt of the fingers.

Q. Downe in my yard I haue three ſwine
the more meat I giue them,
the louder they cry,
the leſſer I giue them,
the ſiller they lye.

sol. It is three Milles.

Q. There dwels a Shoemaker nere y hall
that makes his ſhoes without a nawle,
Though men of them doe not were,
yet they of them haue many a paire:

sol. It is a Smith which maketh ſhoes
for hoꝛſes:

Q: Riddle me, riddle me what is this?
Two legges ſat vpon three, with one legge

The Booke,&c.

in his hand : in comes foure legges and snatcht away one legge : then vp start two legges , and flung thre legges at foure legges, and so got one legge againe.

fol. A man sitting vpon a thre-footed stole with a legge of mutton in his hand, a dogge came and snatcht it from him, and he flung thre-footed stole at the dogge, and so got the legge of mutton againe.

Q. I haue a meddow, and in my meddow are ten Dakes, vnder enery Dake are ten Coates, and in euery Coate are ten Sowes and euery Sow hath ten Piggs : tell me how many like Piggs will be of these.

fol. A hundred.

FINIS.

